

# *NEWS AND VIEWS*

## of Chemical Preparedness

### EPA Region VIII

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*Welcome to the new News & Views. I invite your input as far as news from your agencies that may be of interest to others. Address your news to C.G. Heister at the above address or fax to 303-312-6071 or e-mail [Heiste.Charles@epa.gov](mailto:Heiste.Charles@epa.gov).*

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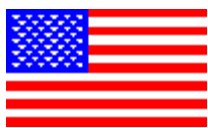
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## **WASATCH RINGS** **EXERCISE**

By Jim Knoy

The FBI recently lead a large scale full field exercise in the Salt Lake City area to test the Crisis Management aspect of response to a terrorist event. More than 1500 emergency responders from more than 60 federal, state and local agencies participated in the exercise on April 4-5, 2001. The

exercise included a mock train derailment, bomb threats, a hostage situation and the detonation of a radiological device. The exercise was done, in part, to prepare responders for the upcoming 2002 Winter Olympics which will be held in that area during February 2002.

The 2002 Winter Olympics will be one of the largest peacetime events in the history of the United States. During the 16 day run, the games will draw an estimated 3,700 athletes, officials from 80 nations and over 70,000 visitors per day from across the globe.

The exercises presented a lot of opportunities to test the coordination of different authorities and expertise of many agencies. EPA worked with local responders, FBI, FEMA, DOE, state agencies and others in some very interesting situations.

This exercise focused on the initial stages of the events, which is often considered to be both emergency response and Crisis Management. Crisis Management currently refers to the criminal investigation aspect of a response, for which FBI has the lead role. Consequence Management, in which FEMA has the lead role, focuses on more of the cleanup and recovery phases. Consequence Management was not a primary objective in this particular exercise, and will be exercised in greater detail in later exercises.

EPA learned that it was beneficial to work with the other agencies to pool resources in a way to benefit the local, first responders. As expected, the use of Incident Command was important, and the need to better integrate federal resources into the local incident command needs work. It is imperative that the local incident command

stand up and really be in charge. The federal resources are there primarily to support locals. The potential to have some very successful, integrated responses is there, and the Wasatch Rings exercise was an excellent step in that direction. If you wish more information, feel free to contact Jim Knoy at [knoy.jim@epa.gov](mailto:knoy.jim@epa.gov) Or at 303/312-6838.

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### **Local Government Reimbursement (LGR)**

\_\_\_\_\_An application from Lincoln County, Montana for Local Government Reimbursement in the amount of \$7,747.14 for costs incurred responding to a clandestine methamphetamine drug laboratory on February 6, 2001 has been approved.

An application from Montezuma County, Colorado for Local Government Reimbursement in the amount of \$24,847.00 for costs incurred responding to abandoned chemicals has been approved.

### **Did You Know**

In 1866, oil producers in western Pennsylvania, the heart of the newly emerging industry agreed to sell their product by the gallon instead of in randomly-sized barrels. This was typical of an industry that was starting to grow beyond regional borders, and needed the ability to consistently communicate and deal with customers around the country. Interestingly enough, they decreed that “an allowance of two gallons will be made on the gauge of each and every 40 gallons in favor of the buyer.” This was a bold gesture of their

desire to satisfy their customers. As a result, the Petroleum Producers Association adopted the 42-gallon barrel in 1872.

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## **MOU 2000**

BY Jim Lehr

Recently, 32 federal agency Regional Administrators signed a Memorandum of Agreement, MOU 2000, pledging to work more cooperatively on environmental issues in Indian Country. The 6 page agreement, double spaced, has 8 pages of signatures. The MOU establishes a process to annually solicit and jointly sponsor specific projects to improve environmental quality, pollution prevention and compliance with requirements. An interagency Steering Group serves as a clearinghouse for projects and “Broker” for the appropriate mix of agencies to address such projects. The focus is on tribal-initiated projects and activities to help build tribal infrastructure and internal capacity for environmental protection. Nominations for Specific Projects is currently underway. Interagency Teams and plans for initial projects are being established. The interagency / Tribal Steering Group also guides and oversees the work of the MOU.

A Tribal Leaders’ Summit is being scheduled for later this year; to report progress on projects and to obtain guidance from Tribal Leaders on implementation plans for the second year. Expect over 200 tribal representatives and members of the federal agencies that signed the original MOU. Additional signatory agencies will be featured. **Contacts: Jim Lehr, 303-312-**



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## **Waste settlement boosts “hazmat” truck for Sterling**

STERLING, Co - The City of Sterling may have a new fire truck/hazmat vehicle 18 months sooner than planned, thanks to a settlement filed Monday between the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and four subsidiary companies of Clean Harbors, Inc.

Clean Harbors, one of the nation’s largest waste-handling firms, will pay \$150,000 into an escrow fund Sterling can use to start the purchase this year rather than in 2002. The \$325,000 specialized truck takes six months to a year to build. The city had budgeted \$175,000 to replace a 26-year-old truck in 2002 probably with a used one. The settlement money allows them to buy a newer and better unit, a pumper/tanker with hazmat capability.

Enter EPA and the Clean Harbors companies. They had been working to settle alleged violations of hazardous waste laws in the Sterling area. The parties agreed that helping the city qualified as a “supplemental environmental project.(SEP)” The truck will strengthen city response to hazardous

materials events. EPA often accepts SEP's as part of settlements to perform work that benefits the environment near the site of violations. The companies will also pay a combined \$50,000 fine the U.S. Treasury.

According to EPA, the companies stored spent solvents and related wastes too long in rail tank cars at an off-loading

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facility in the Sterling rail yard in late 1997 and early 1998. Wastes were periodically loaded into tanker trucks for the rest of the trip to a disposal facility in Kimball, Nebraska. Shipped wastes must reach their destination in 45 days. If stored longer, handlers must inform EPA and locate the wastes. The firms failed to notify EPA in a timely way in some 137 instances, tied to 32 shipments, the Agency said.

Backlogs at the Kimball facility kept wastes sitting in tank cars in Sterling and elsewhere. The firms now have a tracking system that avoids such problems, said EPA inspector John Works in Denver.

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) - the nation's basic hazardous waste law - limits the time wastes can be stored for a number of reasons. "The aim is to get these materials to a final treatment or disposal point in a timely way. The longer that takes, the more can go wrong," said Carol Rushin, enforcement chief in EPA's Regional Office in Denver.

"Sterling's fire department will soon be much better equipped to handle incidents in the rail yard, along I - 76 and at local firms that manage hazardous chemicals, "

Rushin said. "We think this is a great result. The companies stepped up to their environmental responsibilities and the community benefits."

Firms that shipped wastes to Kimball included in the settlement are Spring Grove (OH) Resource Recovery, Inc.; Clean Harbors of Braintree (MA), Inc.; Clean Harbors Services, Inc. of Chicago, Clean

Harbors of Baltimore, Inc. The parent company is not a named respondent.

Colorado's Department of Public Health and Environment runs the State's hazardous waste program. CDPHE referred this case to EPA because firms in several states were involved.



**NOTE:** For more information contact John Works, at (303) 312 - 6196 [works.john@epa.gov](mailto:works.john@epa.gov)